



GatewayConnector

Planning Now For The Future □



Newsletter 1 □

Spring 2003

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is pleased to introduce you to the GatewayConnector corridor protection study, the next stage in identifying a new transportation corridor for Madison, St. Clair, and Monroe counties. The GatewayConnector study is an opportunity for IDOT and local officials to enhance a long-range transportation plan that will meet the future needs of the motoring public, business owners, residents, and area communities.

Project Overview

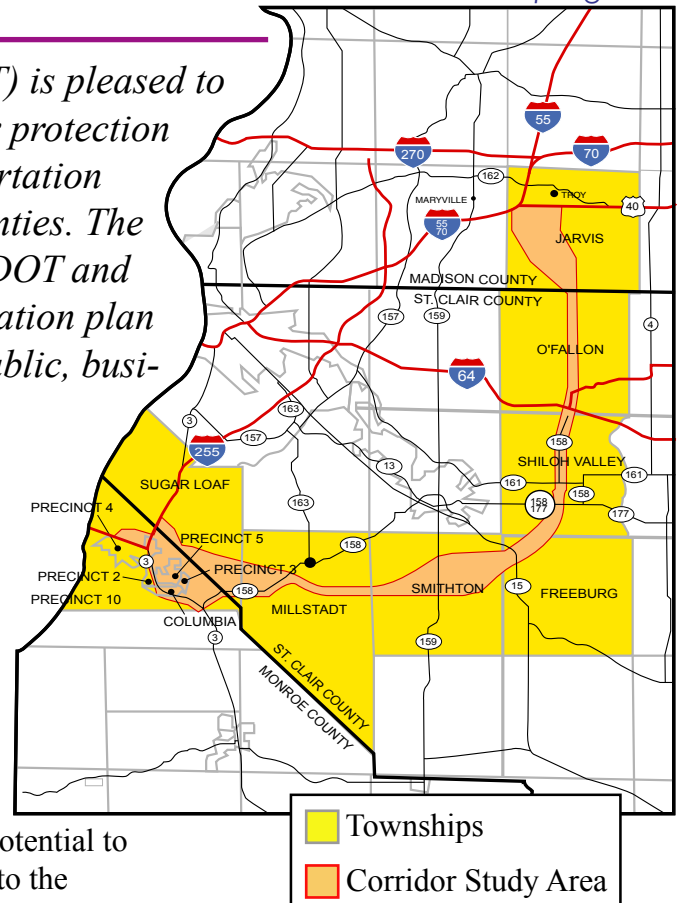
The study area (see map) is roughly 37 miles in length, extending from the I-55/70 - U.S. 40 interchange near Troy in Madison County, south and west through St. Clair County, to I-255 near Columbia in Monroe County. The study is expected to be completed in early 2004.

A feasibility study, which concluded in 2001, determined the need for a new transportation corridor to serve the Metro East. That project, which was known as the Illinois Route 158 Outer Belt Feasibility Study, showed that the three counties in the study area can expect to see population and employment increase 25% by 2020.

This growth will result in at least 25% more traffic volume. In order to effectively plan for this future growth, IDOT, in cooperation with

the counties and communities in the study area, is acting now to identify and protect a corridor for future transportation needs. Protecting a corridor now has the potential to reduce future impacts to the people and communities in the study area such as higher economic, human, and environmental costs.

IDOT will be working closely with area stakeholders throughout this study to integrate their long-range planning into the region's transportation needs. This approach anticipates the economic development and future growth needs of the region and will result in a safe, cost-effective transportation system.



What will be done during the study?

The GatewayConnector study team will be conducting a variety of engineering and environmental evaluations during the project, including:

- Data collection and review
- Engineering and traffic studies
- Surveying
- Review of documented environmentally sensitive issues and areas
- Development of alternative alignments

The study will conclude with a Corridor Protection Report, a document which summarizes the project's engineering, environmental, and public involvement activities and identifies the corridor as a 400-ft wide band. The type of transportation facility in the corridor will not be decided during this study.

That determination will be made during the location and environmental phase of study, which would proceed after the final corridor alignment is defined and recorded (contingent on fund availability).

Corridor Protection

The process of corridor protection helps IDOT and regional planning authorities anticipate and plan for future transportation and land use needs by identifying and establishing a location for future additions to the state highway system. This process helps prevent costly and conflicting development of the land involved.

The corridor protection process is an Illinois State Statute, found in the Illinois Highway Code as Statute 605 ILCS 5/4-510. The statute will be available for review at public meetings, or you can examine it on the study's website at www.gatewayconnector.com

What Does *That* Mean?

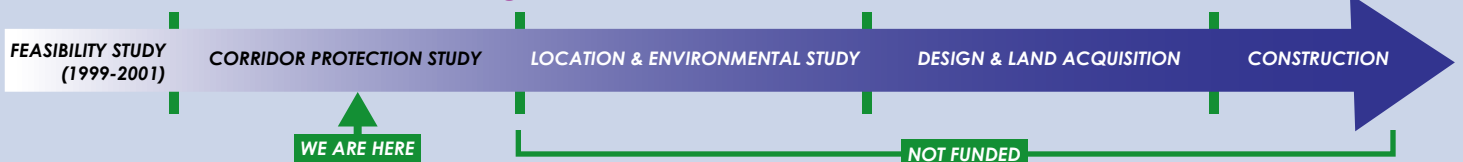
Alternative Alignments – potential locations for transportation improvements or additions. Several alternative alignment options are developed and evaluated during a typical transportation study.

Corridor – a clearly defined area of study whose location and boundaries are determined by the goals and needs of the study. Alternative alignments are developed within a corridor.

Stakeholder – A person, group or entity with a vested interest in a project or study.

Transportation Facility – the type of road, highway, freeway or other transportation mode (such as light rail) to be placed in a corridor.

GatewayConnector Planning Process



Public Involvement – we want you!

IDOT knows that any transportation project will impact people in many different ways – many will benefit while some may be adversely affected. For that reason, an important component of the GatewayConnector study is a comprehensive, responsive public involvement program.

The study team has planned a variety of activities and tools to engage and involve residents, business owners, community leaders, and others in the study area including:

■ Study Management Group, an advisory board made up of county, East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, and IDOT representatives

- Frequent project updates to community officials and legislators
- Public informational meetings
- Interactive website
- Newsletters
- Numerous options for providing comment and feedback

How can I get in touch with the Study Team?

IDOT is interested in your comments and feedback on the GatewayConnector study, and encourages people in the study area to stay informed and participate throughout the duration of the project.

There are a variety of ways to contact us:

Mail:

Gateway Connector Study
3199 Riverport Tech Center Drive
St. Louis, MO 63043

Phone:

866-772-9148 (toll-free)
314-209-5929 (fax)
618-346-3396 (TDD)

E-mail:

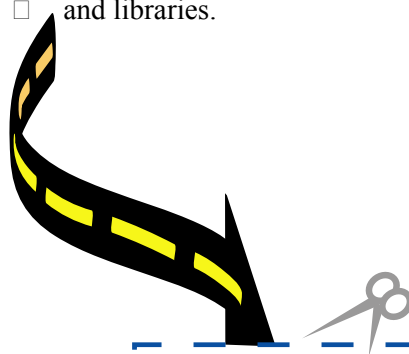
studyteam@gatewayconnector.com

We've included all this contact information on a handy "business card" below. Simply clip out the card and place it on your refrigerator, near your phone, or in your wallet. These cards will also be available in many public places in the study area, such as city halls, county offices, ☐ and libraries.

GatewayConnector Website

Be sure to visit the official website of the GatewayConnector study, www.gatewayconnector.com.

You'll find an easy to navigate, one-stop source for project information, frequently asked questions, upcoming events, and much more. There's an area for you to submit your comments, and register for the project's mailing list so that we can keep you informed with the latest newsletter and public meeting information.



Send your comments to:

Gateway Connector Study
3199 Riverport Tech Center Drive
St. Louis, MO 63043

866-772-9148 toll free
314-209-5929 fax
618-346-3396 TDD

Website:
www.gatewayconnector.com

E-mail:
studyteam@gatewayconnector.com



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**

Public Informational Meetings

Mark your calendar for the first public informational meetings for the GatewayConnector study:

July 7, 2003 – 4 - 7 pm

Triad High School cafetorium
703 East Highway 40, Troy

July 8, 2003 – 4 - 7 pm

Parkview Elementary School cafeteria
1 Parkview Drive, Columbia

July 9, 2003 – 4 - 7 pm

Southwest Illinois College cafeteria
2500 Carlyle Avenue, Belleville

These public meetings will be held in an “open house” format, which means no formal presentations will be made.

You will be able to examine a variety of exhibit boards and other important study information. IDOT and consultant study team members will be on hand to answer your questions, explain the project, and listen to your concerns.

Handouts will be available for you to take home, and comment forms will be provided for you to fill out at the meeting or return to the study team by mail. We look forward to seeing you.